received any proposals from the Southern States for laying of roads in the coastal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

SHRI MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have been requesting for financial assistance for coastal roads as under:–

		Estimated Cost
(i)	Tada–Kothapatnam–Machilipatnam Visakhapatnam–Ichapuram road (1000 Kms)	Rs. 730 Crores
(ii)	Madras–Pondicherry–Cuddalore–Nagapattinam–Tuticorin–Kanyakumari (737 Kms)	Rs. 142 Crores

These roads form part of State Road Network and as such the concerned State Governments are essentially responsible for their development. The Asian Development Bank has agreed to provide assistance for Madras–Cuddalore portion of the road at (ii) above in Tamil Nadu at estimated cost of Rs. 37 crores and the work is being executed by State PWD. The State Government have projected the remaining portion of road from Cuddalore to Kanyakumari costing Rs. 115.20 crores under central loan assistance programme for State Roads of Inter–State or Economic Importance to be taken up during 8th Plan. Since the outlay for 8th Plan is not yet known, it has not been possible to consider the scheme.

In so far as Tade–Ichapuram Road is concerned, it is not possible to pose this work for financial assistance to Asian Development Bank at the present, as proposed by the State, since for their next highway loan the Bank is considering only the National Highways. In view of huge cost of this project and limited resources under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, it is also not possible to provide any financial assistance for this project by the Government of India.

[*Translation*]

Compliance of Decisions of Curtail Government Expenditure

804. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken decisions to curtail the Government expenditure during the last three years;

(b) if so, the percentage of decrease in the Government expenditure noticed as a result of these decisions;

(c) the number of officers found guilty for not complying with these orders; and

(d) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Government are continuously making efforts to curtail expenditure. All Ministries have been requested to priorities their activities so that those which figure at the bottom of the list can be abridged

while those which have outlived their utility can be adondoned altogether. Other economy measures initiated by the Government in the past few years include curbs on expenditure on travel including foreign travel, expenditure on conferences, seminars, publicity, fuel consumption, deferment of festivals, fairs, exhibitions and international conferences wherever firm commitments have not already been made. The Budget for 1991–92 contained a number of measures to curtail expenditure, Among the major items is the abolition of export subsidies. All Ministries have been asked to cut expenditure by 5% and surrender 10% of the telephone lines.

(b) It is not possible to indicate the exact decrease in expenditure on account of the abovementioned measures. Less expenditure as a result of economy measures effected is not accounted for separately/distinctly The expenditure finally adjusted against a particular head is the net position taking into account the additional requirements offset by savings due to economy measures. The net expenditure would have been higher but for measures taken to curtail the expenditure.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Silk from China

805. SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether silk is being imported from China;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the quantity of silk imported during the last one year;

(c) the policy laid down by the Government for the distribution of this imported silk; and

(d) the quantity of this silk given to Karnataka?

THE MINSTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d). Due to outbreak of Pebrine disease in the rearing areas of major silk producing States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu, there was decline in the arrivals of cocoons in the cocoon markets, which ultimately affected the availability as well as prices of raw silk in the country. The Central Silk Board and the concerned State Governments have already initiated various measures for control of the disease.

In order to stabilize the prices of raw silk and to provide raw silk to the weavers at reasonable rates, the Government of India has permitted import of 200 Metric Tonnes of raw silk by the Central Silk Board and designated agencies. The organisations have the choice to import silk from any source depending on their requirements. However it is likely that most of the imports will be from china.

The imported raw silk will be distributed to weavers through State agencies such as State Handloom Development Corporation, State Apex Handloom Weavers Societies, National Handloom Development Corporation and State Directors of Handloom & Textiles. In the first instance, 15 metric tonnes of raw silk have been earmarked for Karnataka.

Development of Waterways

806. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop water transport in Ganga, Sarau,